

CLAIM LISTINGS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts or double bracketing.

1. (Currently amended) In a computing environment, a method comprising:

identifying a first group policy object including a first plurality of settings and a second plurality of settings, the first plurality of settings being configured and applied to a computing environment and the second plurality of settings not configured and applied to a computing environment;

identifying a second group policy object including a third plurality of settings and a fourth plurality of settings, the third plurality of settings being configured and applied to a computing environment and the fourth plurality of settings not configured and applied to a computing environment;

collecting the first subset of settings from a the first group policy object applied to a first scope of management;

collecting the third subset of settings from a the second group policy object applied to a second scope of management;

combining the first subset of settings and the third subset of settings into at least one markup language document according to a predefined schema;

displaying a report created from the markup language document, the displayed report containing; and

wherein only settings from configured and applied to a computing environment settings are included in the displayed report.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein a first setting from the first group policy object conflicts with a second setting from the second group policy object, the method further comprising:

resolving the conflict to determine whether the first setting or the second setting is a prevailing setting; and

identifying the prevailing setting in the displayed report.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the first scope of management and the second scope of management further comprises one of the following: a site; a domain; an organization unit.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein combining the settings into at least one markup language document comprises generating an HTML-formatted document and the displaying a report further comprises displaying the HTML-formatted document.

5. – 9. (Previously canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein combining the settings into at least one markup language document further comprises serializing settings data into an XML-formatted document.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein serializing settings data further comprises providing an XML schema and settings data to an XML serializer component.

12. (Currently amended) A tangible computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

13.-15. (Previously canceled)

16. (Currently amended) In a computing environment, a method comprising: providing a schema that describes resultant set of policy settings; and applying the schema to output a formatted version of the resultant set of policy settings;

identifying a first plurality of settings and a second plurality of settings in the resultant set of policy settings based on the schema, the first plurality of settings being configured and applied to a computing environment and the second plurality of settings not being configured and applied to a computing environment;

outputting a list of the first plurality of settings, the list omitting the second plurality of settings

-that identifies configured settings and omits non-configured settings.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the schema comprises an XML schema.

18. (Currently amended) A tangible computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 16.

19. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of collecting settings from the first group policy object includes collecting directory service settings and the step of collecting settings from a second group policy object includes collecting system volume settings, the method further comprising:

querying a domain controller;  
reading the directory service settings and the system volume settings from the domain controller based on the querying.

20. (New) The method of claim 19 further comprising storing the directory service settings and the system volume settings, wherein the directory service settings and the system volume settings are stored in a format selected from the group consisting of Directory Service (DS) objects/attributes, .ini style files, and a custom registry.pol binary file.

21. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the combining step includes deriving an object type from the collected settings from the first group policy object and the second group policy object, the derived object type being in the form of a C# class implementing a common set of inherited methods.

22. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the common set of inherited methods includes initialization from a group policy object based on a directory service and file system directory (sysvol) path of a group policy object.

23. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the common set of inherited methods includes an initialization from a resultant set of policy (RSoP) namespace.

24. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the combining step further comprises writing out HTML text corresponding to the combined settings based on a localized string table and an HTML translation specification, wherein the HTML translation specification defines a method for converting data to HTML.

25. (New) The method of claim 24 further comprising persisting the combined settings to an XML representation, the persisting including serializing a managed class to XML and converting a public field to an XML element.

26. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
displaying a list of group policy objects; and  
receiving a selection of a group policy object from the list of group policy objects,  
wherein collecting settings from the first and second group policy objects and combining the settings is responsive to the received selection.

27. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the displayed report corresponds to the selected group policy object, displaying the list of group policy objects includes displaying the list of group policy objects at a first location on a display, and displaying the report includes displaying the report at a second location on the display, the first location being non-overlapping with the second location.

28. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein displaying the report is simultaneous with displaying the list of group policy objects.